

CHURCH OF GOD
Evangel

*Do the Benefits
of Television
in a Christian
Home Compensate
for Its Evils?*

August 12, 1957

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.



Church of God in Riverside, suburb of Atlanta, Ga.

Read—

Miracles of God and Miracles of Satan



August

Mrs. Avis Swiger

THE MONTH OF AUGUST was named for Emperor Augustus Caesar. It had previously been called Sextilis and had only thirty days. July, which had been named for Julius Caesar, had thirty-one days so the Senate decreed that August should have the same number of days. One day was taken from February and added to August.

Augustus chose to give his name to this month because it had brought him some of his greatest experiences. He had been admitted to the consulate, had thrice celebrated a triumph, had concluded the civil wars, and had subdued Egypt.

There are no national holidays in August, but some important things have happened during the long hot days of this month. On August 3, in 1492, Columbus sailed for the new world; on August 15, in 1914, the Panama Canal was opened. It is also the anniversary of other events such as the annexation of Hawaii and the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment.

For us, August is the month for our General Assembly and it sees the end of summer vacations for our students and teachers. It is a very special month for youth activities in our churches. Much can be done by the church to correlate the weeks of recreation and the days of study that lie ahead. We can help to fortify our children, spiritually, for their school contacts and experiences by giving them rich, full, Christian lives in the home and church.

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Vol. 48, No. 23

August 12, 1957

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Church of God

Evangel

America's Oldest Pentecostal Publication

CHARLES W. CONN, Editor

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WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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The Christian's Fourfold Protection

GOD HAS PROVIDED for His children the only perfect protection known to man. Christians are free and wholly protected from the snares of the enemy as long as they remain completely consecrated to Him. There is no reason for any Christian to be defeated in his spiritual life; his position in Christ is secure and eternal as long as he reposes his complete confidence in God. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:3, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." This one verse has enough assurance to protect the Christian from all the assaults of the devil as long as time shall last.

Examine these words of Paul carefully: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." The security of our position in Christ becomes evident when we notice these four things: (1) we are dead; (2) our lives are hid; (3) we are with Christ; (4) we are in God. What can the enemy do to us as long as we maintain this position in the grace of the Lord?

Before we can be harmed by the enemy we must be found, for our lives are hid in the grace of the Lord. Man cannot hide from God, but he can hide in God. We are promised that the eternal God is our Refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; and He shall thrust out the enemy from before us (Deuteronomy 33:27). Then notice that we are not hidden by the Lord, but in Him. How can the enemy harm us until he has first destroyed God, as long as we retain this position in Him?

If it were possible for the enemy to discover us and destroy God to reach us, we still would be protected by His grace—for we are with Christ as long as we do His will and keep His commandments. It is the promise of Christ to be with us always—even until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). We are never alone, but He is with us at all times. We cannot be overcome by sin as long as He is our Companion. But then suppose the devil should be successful in discovering us, reaching our position in God, and overcoming our companion Jesus Christ—what then? What could he do with the genuine Christian man who thus stood alone? The grace of God would mock him, for we are dead—and you cannot harm a dead man. This death in Christ is, of course, a paradoxical death, because the more we die, the more we live.

Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." The more a Christian dies, the more he lives. That is the paradox, and that is the glory. As far as sin is concerned, we can become dead men—yet alive unto God and all that is good. Because



The Editor's Message

we are dead to Satan, he cannot harm us; and because we are alive unto God, He can mold us.

Reflect for a while on the spiritual protection God has provided by His grace. First of all, He has hidden us; we are not simply hidden, but hidden in Him; we are not hidden alone in Him, but are with Christ; we are more than hidden with Christ in God, but are dead to Satan and insensitive to his lures. The Christian who recognizes and retains this place can never fall.

Overseers' Promotional Rally

ON THE MORNING of May 21, overseers and youth directors from all the forty-eight states gathered in Cleveland for their biennial promotional rally. The meeting was convoked by the general overseer for the purpose of surveying the program of the Church across the nation. The sessions of the overseers were under the direction of the general overseer, and those of the youth directors were moderated by the national Sunday School and youth director.

The fellowship of the brethren was an inspiration to behold. Here were men who are under the constant pressure of responsibility and administration, who are beset by the varying difficulties of their localities, gathered in a time of edification and instruction.

All the departments of the Church reported to the meeting on their progress and their problems. Ways and means of accelerating the work of God were considered. Reports were made by the new Evangelism Committee and Music Committee, as well as Lee College, the Home for Children, the Missions Department, Editorial Department, the Publishing House and the two sponsoring departments, the Executive Committee and the Sunday School and Youth Department.

The meeting climaxed with a banquet with the Alumni Association of Lee College on the evening of May 23.

The overseers shared views, received counsel and inspiration on ways to promote the work of God. Now may God crown those efforts with His grace that there may be success in His name.

ALWAYS CAUGHT BY ONE OR THE OTHER



Miracles of God and Miracles of Satan

antichrist with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10). However, God will not cease His work because of Satan; His noble miracles will continue and men will have power with God as Jacob had. Yet, many will be deceived by the power of the devil through men. Father Divine has performed miracles without number; millions have been deceived by his enchantments. I have been told by ministers that have visited his meetings, that after seeing his power, it was all they could do to resist believing in his practice. The spirit of evil conviction from the devil would seize even the minds of men of God, only the power of truth prevailed over the evil one.

Simon, the man we read of in Acts 8, was somewhat like unto Father Divine. He had bewitched the people for a long time with his sorcery, giving out that he was some great one. Friends, only God is the great One. There is a danger in man's becoming too great in the eyes of man. Simon did very well with his sorcery, which was magic enchantment or divination by the aid of evil spirits, witchcraft, until his magic deception met with God's performed miracles. It was revealed by the Holy Ghost that his heart was not right with God. I know of great revivals conducted by men of evil minds who exercised some kind of power. Souls seemed to be converted, and saints shouted and rejoiced at his preaching. Yet this man was full of evil lust and was living in gross sin. He came to service full of power (not the power of God), and speaking with tongues believed to be that of the Holy Ghost. I want you to keep in mind that God's power is real and that He has good men and uses those men to deliver mankind from sickness and sin.

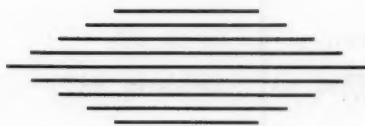
TRUE MIRACLES OF GOD

We must believe that God does perform miracles today as of yesterday. My writing is not to offset faith in God but to expose the power of Satan. Nicodemus, the ruler of the Jews, was strongly convinced that Christ was the Son of God by the miracles He per-

SOME BIBLE SCHOLARS say that the days of miracles are past. Miracles live with God, in the beginning and in the end of times. God is a miracle-performing Personality; Christ was from the Father and the earth is full of His wondrous miracles. I have been a believer in miracles and divine healing for many years. Especially during the past twenty-eight years of my ministry Christ has been my Healer. However, from a Bible viewpoint, there is another side we should consider. God is the greatest power, with power over all in heaven and on earth. There is, however, another great power, the power of Satan. When we are converted, we are turned from the power of Satan to the power of God.

Since there are two great powers in the world, we must choose the right power. Adam and Eve were deceived into believing in the power of Satan; they were driven from the presence of God. Since the human mind cannot separate the unseen difference, the decision must be made through spiritual discernment. Scientists of our day use electronic measurements to determine the good and evil in the problems of mankind, but I am afraid that we Christians are not so alert in separating the good from the evil; the tree contains both good and evil fruit. However, in the midst of all trees, there is the way of truth and life.

We are taught by the Word of God that Satan in the last days will perform before the revelation of the



By Clyde C. Cox

Dillon, South Carolina

formed. "No man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." The disciples went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following (Mark 16:20). God is the same today, and it is also true that the devil is the same deceiver today. Satan began his work of deception in the beginning and will finish his work on earth by deceiving the nations that God has permitted to live as sheep nations in His earthly kingdom (Revelation 20:8). Regardless of the workings of Satan, God still performs miracles and they are real.

MIRACLES OF SATAN

As God performs miracles, so does Satan. There are two great powers, the power of God and the power of the devil. I fear both powers. The natural man cannot receive the things of God; he must be born again to know the power of God. Only the power of God can discern the secret workings of Satan. The Bible teaches that Satan in the last days will perform miracles and by those miracles will deceive many. I hesitate to refer to these passages for fear someone will doubt the real miracles of God and men that love God; however, a sermon of half truth is worse than no truth at all. People do not readily believe statements that have no truth in them but are deceived by half truths, so we must tell the whole truth of God's Word. May we refer to Revelation 13. "The second beast exerciseth *all the power* of the first beast" (verse 12). The second beast has power from the first beast. Where did the first beast receive his power? From Satan, the dragon, the devil. "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast" (verse 4). By this Satan-power the beast performs great wonders and by the miracles he deceiveth the people. He will make fire come down from heaven in the sight of men (verse 13). By the power of Satan the beast deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he has *power to do* (verse 14). This power is not false, it is real, devil-working power.

Recall the man that was full of devils. The devils

IN NEED OF BED ROCK



would cast him into fire or water and throw him down upon the ground. When the devils were out of him, he was a normal man. The devil has great power; he will have power to cause the image of the first beast to speak and to cause men to be put to death (verse 15). Do you mean to say that devils can work miracles? Open your Bible and turn with me to Revelation 16:14: "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle (here the devil is starting a war) of that great day of God Almighty." These devils came out of the mouths of the false prophet, the beast and the dragon. We have encountered many devils coming out of the mouths of false prophets speaking lies in hypocrisy, men that have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1, 2). They that receive the mark of the beast are either forced into taking the mark or are deceived. By his miracles most of them will be branded as servants of the beast. "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast," Revelation 19:20.

TRUE AND FALSE MIRACLES

The pretended miracles performed by the magicians looked real enough, but they were false. The Scrip-
(Continued on page 12)



Riverside—a suburb of Atlanta

Portrait
of a
Suburban
Church

RIVERSIDE GEORGIA

EVERYTHING is all a-buzz around the church — it is Sunday morning. The superintendents are early to see that everything is in readiness; the caretaker, who keeps the church immaculately clean, comes really early to have all the buildings warm and in order; the transportation committee is also early with the bus and extra cars to bring folk to Sunday School; the pastor is there playing chimes over the outside speakers to bless the people of the community and remind them that it is the Lord's Day and time to worship. Sunday School is carried on in an orderly and systematic fashion, with an evangelistic appeal, stressing the power in the Word for our daily lives.

With Sunday School over, the bus is loaded with children who can not stay for church, while the others go to the little auditorium for children's church (unless there is a special service in the main auditorium). The Sunday morning services are carefully and prayerfully planned, objectively exhorting to true worship, conformity to the Word, and soul-winning. Our motto: "Enter to worship, depart to serve."

There is company for lunch at the parsonage; then at three o'clock there is a formal wedding followed by a reception. A person in real need calls, but it is now time for the wedding. Brother Watson always advises those getting married to build a Christian

home and to be loyal to God and the Church. When we return from the wedding the phone is ringing; the person is still needing help, and off Brother Watson goes to lend advice and prayer.

One group of young people is doing Sunday School extension work, and another is working on a branch Sunday School.

At seven p.m. we are back at church. The Soul-winners' Band meets in the auditorium preceding the regular evening service. This band was inspired by the Lord years ago and has met every Sunday since, teaching the Word, stressing consecration and soul-winning. Also, groups of young people usually meet at this time to practice songs, music or a program for the coming week. The service following is evangelistic. We have a beautiful choir and a good little orchestra. We have a fine group of about thirty to forty young people who do special singing for special occasions. There are always visitors for service; they are recognized, made welcome and invited to return. There is always an altar call for both sinners and Christians. In fact, there is not too much difference between our reg-

ular Sunday evening services and our revival services. God has given us many souls and we praise Him!

Monday: Each day at ten a.m. there is a prayer meeting at the church. We are usually few in number but we worship God and keep our requests continually before Him for the needs of the Church in general as well as locally.

At ten thirty a.m. on this particular Monday, the Atlanta Pentecostal Fellowship met. Brother Watson has served as president and has held other offices with this group. At noon he returns to find a number of phone calls, and we spend the afternoon in visiting the sick, in homes and hospitals. One young woman who was dying from severe burns—the most horrible sight I ever beheld—said, "I have been saved since this happened, for I feel as if I'm in hell." During the evening meal a call comes from a distracted mother—son in trouble, and we must help!

The Boy Scouts met at the church as they do each Monday night. They really enjoy the activities the troop provides. We are trying to keep our young people busy and happy in the church, hoping to save them from many of the temptations of the world.

On the first Monday night in each month there is a district fellowship meeting or a youth rally—alternately.

Tuesday: The state council met at two p.m. Brother Watson

By Mrs. G. R. Watson

"the pastor's helpmate."

*An inspiring account of
the problems, the program,
the ministry, and the
blessings of a suburban
church. Riverside is typical
and representative of all
the suburban congregations
in the Church of God.*



The pastor performs a quiet wedding.

planned to do some odd jobs around the church and parsonage this morning after prayer service, but that didn't last long, as some visitors came by. Then there were several telephone calls to be made to help some folks; one call was made to the Welfare Department, one to the state parole board, and various others. He ate his lunch with the telephone on his shoulder, trying to get as much as possible done before leaving for the state office. Recently a check was made on the number of phone calls per day and the time spent. There were thirty-six calls amounting to five or six hours spent on the telephone. We are happy to have the privilege to serve and do the little that we can. Some sick folk were prayed for over the phone. Many times the Lord heals by this way of pray-

ing. Tonight was prayer meeting night. These services are always well-attended and the Lord blesses with His presence. We are stressing Bible reading and study, and starting with Genesis next week, we hope to go through the Bible together. The families will read at home and questions will be asked on the chapters on prayer meeting night—taking only part of the time, however. Surely Jesus is saying also to this generation: "Ye do err not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God."

Wednesday: Brother Watson spent the day visiting. There were sick calls and homes with serious problems: a broken home; a back-slidden member needing help; a mother with several children, deserted by her husband, needing food; another mother with a de-

linquent son she can't manage. They all say to the pastor: "What can we do? You will have to help us." As Brother Watson started out to make a call a man drove up, drinking. Beaten and discouraged with life, he said, "I am having to leave home. Brother Watson, tell me where I can go from here." Hard problems, but Jesus is the Master of every situation and the man has been saved. Oh, what a privilege to have a little part in helping lost and needy humanity! Some of the ladies are taking out some clothing for needy families while another group is getting some boxes ready (clothes and literature) to mail to the missions fields. There is a mission spirit among the people in our church, and yet we feel we are not even "scratching the surface" compared to what we



The "Crusaders' Class."



Sunday morning worship

should be doing. At our special missions service a few months ago, over \$5,000 was given and pledged. We are sponsoring Brother and Sister Skaggs in Honduras; the young married people's class is helping to support a worker in India; the L.W.W.B. is helping to support a pastor in Cuba; a couple in the church, starting now, will support a pastor in the Dominican Republic; and different Sunday School classes are working on missions projects. We mail clothes and literature to several different missions fields and send special offerings at Christmas.

Thursday: Brother Watson serves as chaplain on the governor's staff and today a call came from the prison chaplain asking that he hold a service in the jail at three p.m. He is also working on the case of a man soon to be electrocuted. There were several things to be done while downtown, so he "killed several birds with one stone." One of our young ministers has been drafted into the service, and Brother Watson is trying to help him to be reclassified so that he may work for the Lord a while longer, anyway. A very serious, unmentionable crime has been committed, and Brother Watson is expected to help the person, even though he is guilty. He will try to help, but he will be fair with both the person and the law. The L.W.W.B. spent the day quilting, after prayer.

This is Y.P.E. night and the young people had a fine program.

The youth are divided into three groups: the children with their leader had about twenty minutes in which they sang and recited, after which their leader read them a nice story. The teen-agers put on an interesting skit, both intellectual and spiritual. The young adults had a panel discussion on a subject vital to them, "The Spirituality of Modern Youth." Sometimes as the young people sing sweet choruses during the devotional period, the Spirit of the Lord comes down and many go to the altar for a deeper consecration; the time is spent in a very spiritual way and the program has to wait until the next week. The children also have a little meeting each Thursday evening before the regular service — songs, Bible drill, stories, etc.

Tonight we had Sunday School teachers' meeting at seven o'clock. Occasionally the officials, teachers and workers get together in a social, usually a nice meal together in a downtown restaurant, after which "better ways and means" for the church work are discussed.

The young people also sponsor a summer camping trip each year. This year they plan devotional services with Bible study each day.

Friday: Even though we have class and departmental secretaries who write the absentees from Sunday School each week, Brother Watson wrote the ones in the men's Bible class this morning. Many calls have come in now for the past few days for persons who

must be visited. A membership of more than 400, their families, relatives and friends; the pastors on the district and their problems; our own families and hundreds of friends won over a long period of time (the result of pastoring the same church for so many years) add up to a long list and a heavy responsibility. There are always members and friends on the sick, discouraged, tempted and tried, financially pressed, persecuted, mistreated-at-home list and we are reaching as many of them as we can and praying for more time and strength to help others. Often the phone rings and a knock at the door sounds at the same time. Non-members, some sinners and some Christians of other churches, call on Brother Watson regularly for any need they might have, and he counts it a great opportunity to serve them. Many of them refer to him as "Dad" Watson. Sunday he is to help with the funeral of a non-member. Numbers come to Brother Watson to marry them, dedicate their babies, etc. All our young parents in the church also dedicate their babies to the Lord. The ladies are having a shower tonight and Brother Watson had a few hours for prayer and study in preparation for the week-end services. The usual bedtime is eleven to twelve o'clock, but it was a little earlier tonight; however, a call came in after we retired, and we both went to pray for a sick woman.

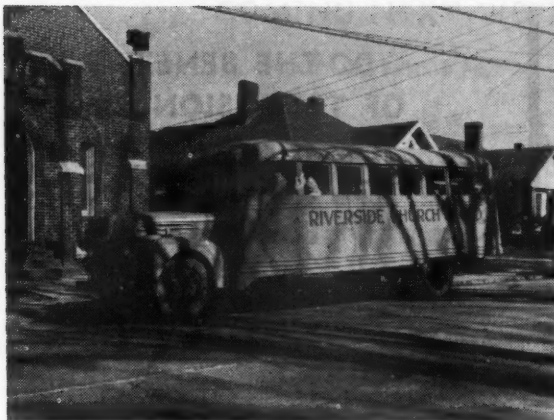
At eight this morning the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship



The "Disciples' Class."



Counselling with a young couple.



Sunday School bus.



Class of Primary boys.

met at the Biltmore Hotel for breakfast and a wonderful service. Some of the men flew here from several states. They have great testimonies and an amazing love for lost souls. We always enjoy meeting with them once each month.

Saturday: We have a fine group of young men who love to work for the Lord in the local church. Not having to work on Saturdays, they spend much of the day in Sunday School visitation. Brother Watson joins them when he can or calls numbers on the phone, reminding them to come to Sunday School. He also calls others on Sunday morning in case they didn't hear the alarm clock, or might be "thinking of staying out today," but usually they come after they are called.

Occasionally the teachers have little outings for the children on Saturdays and Brother Watson goes up to "play" with them for a few minutes.

Today we had the funeral of an infant, the first child of a nice young couple. They were so heart-broken. There are sorrows and joy, burdens and blessings, hard work and pleasure, all mingled in one big measure of opportunity of service for the Lord.

Tonight the *Lamplighters* met. We have some fine leaders working with the boys and girls in this club. Others went to the city prison for a service. Brother Watson held a conference for one of the pastors on the district. After his return

there will probably be more preparation for the service tomorrow. We shall have Communion. Sometimes we have Communion on Sunday morning and sometimes we have Communion and feet-washing on Tuesday evening at prayer meeting. The Lord always blesses in these services. We are trying to reach, and to teach our people the greater blessings in the Communion, to discern more fully the Lord's death, to find more "spiritual" life in the cup of wine and "health" for the body in the broken bread. "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." What is the reason for His "death," the meaning of His shed blood and broken body? For our spiritual growth, physical health and eternal life.

The organizing of the Church of God in this community was the direct will of God, of this we are sure. The foundation was laid on "true holiness" with clean, holy living, love for each other and all humanity, true worship and soul-winning, the cornerstones. The general attitude of our people has always been to reach out for and to others, at home and abroad. Our people have organized and built several other churches in nearby communities. Funds have been sent for 110 missions buildings and churches on foreign fields. For many years a number of ministers in the Church have had their membership here. At present we have

between twenty-five and thirty, including six missionaries on the fields and one on the "home front," Brother Johnny Owens. The objectives of the church are to exalt Jesus, win souls, help keep the saved saved, help feed and clothe the needy, lift up the discouraged, heal the sick (in Jesus' name) and make the community a better place by being here. (Many of the citizens have said that our church is the greatest influence in the community.) To our heavenly Father be all the glory. We have not reached our goal by far, but we are reaching up continually, seeking God for more love, faith, victory, power and most of all for souls.

Summary: Our over-all outlook: a lost world in need of a Saviour; two other worlds, heaven and hell, in mortal combat for the souls of earth's inhabitants and we, a tiny part of God's kingdom, working with might and main to help heaven win in the conflict. We are passing this way just one time; therefore, we shall do all the good we can for everyone we can while we have time and opportunity. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."



DO THE BENEFITS OF TELEVISION IN A CHRISTIAN HOME COMPENSATE FOR ITS EVILS?

A FORUM ON THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN CHRISTIAN LIVING

When I was confronted with this question, I began to do some serious thinking. Could it be possible that we, who so closely guard our children from outside evil influences, may thoughtlessly allow these influences to play havoc with their thoughts and lives inside the home?

Most of us have purchased television sets to provide good wholesome entertainment for our children. Yet, in our hearts we know full well that scenes of debauchery and violence far outweigh the good.

May we learn to judge these programs sincerely and rightly. Then when we stand before the Judge of Righteousness to give an account of our stewardship over our home, He can say unto us "well done."

—Mrs. L. E. Holdman
Carthage, Miss.

My answer is that television carries a lethal dose to the spirituality of anyone who spends very much time with it. If there were such a thing as people looking only at the things which would benefit, or only at the things which would furnish them some no-harm recreation, television would be all right. But who is going to do this? It isn't the bread which kills the rat, it's the poison that is mixed with the bread. Checking all the programs on television which would come over eleven channels for seven days, I found there were 180 programs which would not harm the spirituality of a Christian, and there were 342 shows which would embrace dancing, drunkenness, murder, theft, and other forms of

lust and violence—all this plus the boxing, wrestling, etc., and the advertisements of cigarettes and beer which can look so enticing to young people. Over one channel alone during the seven-day period there were four religious programs, five on education, five for small children, twenty-four on homemaking, panel discussions, etc., and eighty-six shows listed as thirty movies and fifty-six TV productions.

Yes, television is in the world to stay, and so are many other evils. Jesus prayed that the disciples would not be taken out of the world but would be kept from the world. So with all the evils in the world we can still be kept from them through the power and the grace of our Lord and Saviour.

—O. D. Coleman
Elkhart, Ind.

Television, a mass medium of recent vintage, has managed to find a place in the living rooms of an enormous percentage of Christian homes in the past seven or eight years. To say it has had a ruinous effect in all these homes is misrepresentation, while to say its effect in all homes has been ideal is being blind to the facts. The hackneyed but true saying "Anything can be made a sin if used wrongly" certainly applies to the use of this medium. What a sad thing it is to see it being abused and mishandled by some professing Christians who let it serve as a gateway for lust, passion, violence and other trash to be brought into the home! If this is the steady diet the viewer feeds on, it has no justifiable place

in the Christian home. However, being cognizant of the fact that television is being used as a conveyor of constructive educational programs, news analyses, some spiritual features, a source of wholesome recreation and desirable diversion for young and old alike, I feel that because of these proper uses, it is already accepted by Christians the nation over. In brief summation then, where a "governor" has been placed on its use, its effect has been satisfactory, and will continue to be so, while in homes without a governor or government, it needs to remain in the show-window of the corner appliance store. For without discretion and Christian conviction in viewing it, it can be a dangerous weapon. Without (T)imely (V)iewing it could become a (T)errible (V)ice.

—G. D. Boatwright
Lansing, Mich.

There are at least three things we must all admit with regards to television. First, it is here to stay and we must learn to live with it. Second, it has some good features; religious programs, newscasts, educational services and some clean entertainment. Third, it has some bad features such as alcoholic beverage advertisements and dancers and other performers not properly clad.

The question is this: as Christians, what should be our stand? Now at this point there are two schools of thought. One is to ban television altogether. The other says select your programs, divide the good from the bad and accept

COMING NEXT WEEK

"A.D.—11:30 P.M."

The *Evangel* will begin one of the most provocative features in recent years—a series of prophetic studies by one of the most eminent scholars of eschatology in the Church of God.

the good. Also, refuse the bad. This, I think, is the better way. Now if you can live in a world with crooks and still go straight, if you can pause at a newsstand and choose a decent magazine out of all the scum and rot that is offered, if you can read a book, digest the good and refuse the bad, if you can use your telephone for good and still not be contaminated with all the evil gossip, if you can live in a world of good and evil, choose the good and resist the evil, then I think you are strong enough and wise enough to master the selection of television broadcasts coming into your home. —J. Frank Spivey

Pastor, Kannapolis, N. C.

Television has become an absorbing interest in most homes. Because of its eye and ear appeal it is having a profound influence on the average family. Whether that influence is for good or for evil is largely up to the individual. How a television is used may well be the spiritual thermometer of the home. If it is the sole source of entertainment, if it in any way hinders family devotions or church attendance, then the evil overshadows the good. If television is a problem in a home, it may be that the problem was there before and television has proved an outlet or has brought it to light. God's Word teaches discipline in the home. Parents have a grave responsibility and should watch with all diligence for the welfare of their children. When Biblical order is complied with, then our recreation and entertainment will be according to our standards as born-again Christians.

—Mrs. F. W. Goff
Mt. Vernon, Ill.

At the present time I think it brings more evil and I think it is growing worse all the time. Last night a friend and I sat down at her home to enjoy a short time resting and looking at television. I don't think I have ever seen such an insult to a Christian world. Only one thing can help, that is for the united Christian church to take a definite stand against these obscene pictures. They could refuse to patronize those who advertise with programs of this kind. Are we who are called Christians asleep? If so, let us wake up and let the world know what we stand for. The television is not to blame, and it is here to stay. And we must meet it as it is. Books in most homes are obsolete and the Bible is dust-covered. If something isn't done, we will find our world changed into a nudist colony.

—Alda B. Harrison
Cleveland, Tenn.

The television set in your home is not in itself an evil thing. It can be a blessing; it can be a real hindrance to spiritual growth. What it is in your home will be determined by those who manipulate its controls and watch what it transmits. The fact that this modern marvel has brought to our homes more evil than good is not due to the progress of science but rather to a lack of spiritual judgment. You and you alone are to judge what help or hindrance it has been to you and yours—with you also rests the ability to control the entrance of evil and determine the benefits that may be derived from it.

—James L. Slay
Pastor, E. Chattanooga, Tenn.

"... That he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good,"
Isaiah 7:15.

The high purpose of God in providing that parents should bring up their children in a home is that they may learn "to refuse the evil and choose the good."

The widespread availability of commercial television receivers at a price many persons can afford to pay has caused Christian parents to think soberly, "Shall we have televising in our home?"

What is described as the *problem* of television may be stated more accurately as the *problem* of standards. Those godly parents who have up to this point provided an atmosphere where their children have been carefully nurtured "in the admonition of the Lord," where their reading habits reflect the ability to select the good from the bad among the works of Shakespeare or modern comic books, where language patterns reflect home standards rather than those they may have chanced to hear elsewhere, where the Word of God is read and obeyed—these have nothing to fear from television. The same standards that have been applied to other areas are extended to the new area, that of televising. They are free to enjoy the good, secure in the knowledge that the undesirable can be eliminated by a simple turning of the dial.

Let us not be naive. Our children will eventually see television programs just as they hear radios, read books and play records. The question then is whether they learn "to choose the good" at home, or will be introduced to televising at the neighbors' or relatives' homes where there may be no discrimination in the choice of programs.

May God grant us the courage, wisdom and foresight to prepare our children to live godly lives in the midst of a wicked and immoral generation by providing in our home the wise discipline and discrimination that will predispose them to "refuse the evil and choose the good" in every area of their lives.

—Ellen B. French
Cleveland, Tenn.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MIRACLES OF GOD . . .

(Continued from page 5)

ture informs us that the performance was of magic or enchantment. When Moses performed a miracle, the magicians by enchantment or magic would do likewise. When Moses performed the first four miracles, the magicians did in like manner with their enchantments (Exodus 7:11). However, when Moses performed the fifth miracle of turning the dust into lice, the magicians did so with their enchantments, to bring forth lice, *but they could not* (Exodus 8:17, 18). Then the magicians went to Pharaoh and said, "This is the finger of God" (verse 19). The magicians were convinced of God's miracles before the king conceded defeat. When the next miracle was performed the magicians were not present at all. When the miracle of boils was performed, the magicians were present; however, they could not stand before Moses, for the boils were upon them also (Exodus 9:11). When the magicians saw the hail and fire running upon the ground, they did not again contest the real miracles of God. The trick in the high-top hat had disappeared and only God remained in the act.

WILL GOD AFFLICT PEOPLE?

It is true that the devil brings affliction upon people and that the demon of affliction must be cast out to bring about healing and deliverance. However, God can send affliction and then heal that affliction from mankind. God told Moses to put his hand into his bosom, and when he pulled it out, behold, his hand was leprous, white as snow. Then God said to put it back. When he pulled it out this time, it was healed—it was as other flesh upon his body (Exodus 4:6, 7). Here God afflicted Moses and healed him of the affliction while Moses stood in the same place.

Here is another case where God afflicted a man and the affliction brought him to his grave. The Lord smote Uzziah the king with leprosy. He was in the Temple offering incense before the Lord when the leprosy came upon his face. The priest thrust him out of the Temple and he died of the leprosy with which God had smitten him (2 Chronicles 26:16-23).

Miriam, the sister of Moses, was smitten of the Lord with leprosy and she became leprous, white as snow. Moses prayed unto the Lord to heal her, and He did after she stayed out of the camp seven days (Numbers 12:1-15).

The devil covered Job with boils, but it was God that covered the Egyptians with boils. During the tribulation God will pour out His wrath upon men. When the first angel pours out his vial, a noisome and grievous sore will come upon men, and they will gnaw their tongues for their pains and blaspheme God for their sores (Revelation 16:2, 10, 11). God also sent the leprosy of Naaman upon Gehazi, the servant of the prophet Elisha, for receiving money that Elisha had refused for the healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5:20-27).

Miracles and healings are definitely taught in the Scriptures to be part of the Church endowment of gifts to be operated by those whom the Spirit gives,

as they are given by the Spirit. God set the gifts in the Church and through the Spirit the gift of healing was given to one member and to another member of the body the gift or working of miracles (1 Corinthians 12:9, 10, 28). You cannot separate the gifts from the Church. We are admonished to call for the elders of the Church and let them pray over the sick and the Lord would raise them up. It is the conviction of the writer that Christ loved His Church, even unto death, and would rebuke any power to take from the Church its gifts. I have not read in the Bible or received in vision from the Lord that He has changed His church system. Coming out of the Church or separating from the Church in order to perform the ministry of Jesus Christ is contrary to the Word of God and is in conformity to Acts 20:30, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." "Perverse things" is turning from truth, or misapplication of the truth. It is true that the Church has untrue members, even untrue ministers, as in the early Church, but the disciples stood with the Church while others turned their ears from the truth. One person informed me that God led her out of the Church. That is unfounded truth. The truth of the matter is that God and the Holy Ghost guide men into the Church. The Church is the ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). And the Holy Ghost leads us into all truth (John 16:13).

In our church work we preach healing for the body by the stripes of Jesus Christ; we pray for the sick and God heals many of them. We have had outstanding healings of cancer and tuberculosis as well as of many other afflictions. Twenty-eight years ago we visited in the home of a mother with tuberculosis who was not a member of the church. God healed this young mother just a few days before she was to be sent to Alto, Georgia, to the sanatorium. She received the Holy Ghost and became a member of the Church of God. Recently we were in Louisiana preaching in a tent meeting. A minister's wife had traveled to Washington, D.C., for her healing and had failed to receive it. She also traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, for her healing and there failed to receive it. In the very first service she was gloriously healed by the power of God. When we pray for the sick in the church, we take them as they come from the congregation. Any other minister would meet with the same difficulty that the pastor is confronted with in getting people to believe God fully for their healings. Some are not healed in a short line just as many are not healed in a long line in other meetings, but some are healed in each line.

Some will say, "The Church does not believe in healing for the body as I believe it." How many ways are there to believe in healing for the body? The Church teaches that by faith we are healed by His stripes. How do you teach? We pray and get the job done; that is all anyone else does. It is God who heals.

Adjust yourself to what is; do not keep trying to adjust everything else to your own desires.



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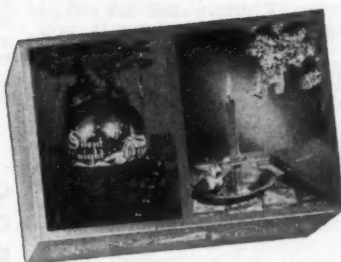
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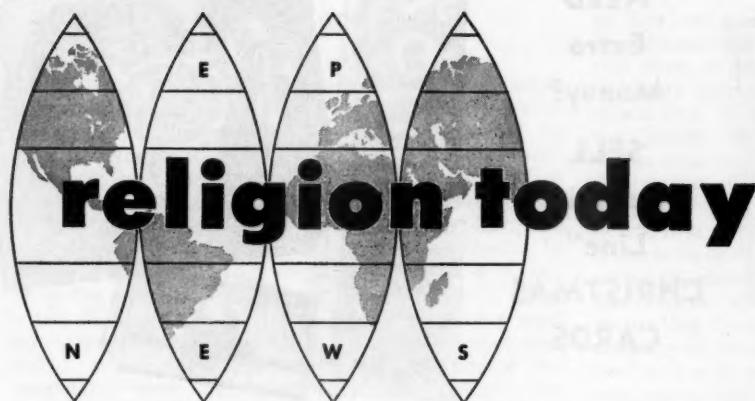
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Communist Youth Dedicatory Ceremonies a Failure

Communist leaders in East Germany have again voiced disappointment over the poor attendance at youth dedicatory ceremonies held this spring in towns and villages throughout the Soviet Zone. They have urged party functionaries and Communist youth leaders to step up their propaganda efforts to make a better showing next year.

The ceremonies are an atheistic counterpart of Christian Confirmation and Communion. They were devised decades ago by German freethinkers and revived by the Communists in an effort to wean children from religion.

Church sources said that, due to repeated pulpit warnings, only "a very small percentage" of young people from Christian families participated in the rites this year, despite Communist inducements and threats.

NEW YORK — The National Council of Churches estimates that before the summer is over more than seven million American children will have attended Vacation Bible Schools or church camps. But this figure will include only a comparatively small part of the estimated 27,000,000 children and youth who do not attend Sunday School or church.

MINNEAPOLIS—The average Christian congregation "has done a very inadequate job with young people," in the opinion of Captain C. G. Bailey, head of the crime prevention bureau of the Minneapolis police department. He told a group of seminarians that the youth program of churches is "weak" because it caters primarily to its own people. "To be a vital,

real part of everyday community life, its youth program should be organized to meet the needs of all the teen-agers in the community. Only by including all young people do you begin to protect your own youngsters," he said.

SACRAMENTO — The California Senate, by a 20-7 vote, killed a bill which would have made "In God We Trust" the official state motto. Opponents of the bill said California already has a motto — "Eureka," which means "I have found it." This motto was put on the state seal one hundred years ago as a symbol of the discovery of gold in California.

BERLIN — An official of the Evangelical Church said the clergy shortage in East Germany is now critical. There are already 200 vacant pastorates in the Soviet-controlled area, and the government will not grant residence permits to young West German pastors who are willing to go East and fill these vacancies. Many East German pastors have fled to the West due to ill health.

Church Bells in Moscow Told on Easter Midnight

A correspondent for the *New York Times* reported that Easter midnight was a time of rejoicing in Moscow for thousands of Christians who were called to worship by tolling bells for 50 or more churches around the city. His report: "A thousand candles came aglow at midnight in Elokhovskaya Cathedral here, and the words 'Christ Is Risen' were chanted. Sheathed in white satin vestments and wearing a bejeweled crown,

Alexei, Patriarch of Moscow and All the Russias, celebrated the centuries-old ritual of the Russian Orthodox Easter mass.

"From atop the Byzantine tower of this cathedral and 50-odd others in the Moscow areas, sonorous bells pealed out single notes. Dense crowds huddled beneath gilt-vaulted arches inside the cathedral and pressed against iron fences without, chanting hymns that only their mothers could have taught them. Worship is tolerated here, but religious instruction outside the home is forbidden.

"Church bells, awakened each Easter after a year-long enforced silence, began to ring slowly at the stroke of 12. Soon, however, bells were pealing in staccato rhythm while hymns to Christ mounted the scale in half steps.

"The choirs in two lofts beneath the 100-foot dome led the worshippers in a crescendo which, set off by the bells, was reminiscent of the rich contrapuntal scenes of the opera 'Boris Godunov.'

"Priests in white and red robes bearing huge candles and Greek crosses of jewels and crystal emerged from beneath the golden cupola at the front of the cathedral. Patriarch Alexei, chanting monotonal responsive readings, led the procession around the outside walls. For the few minutes that the procession was outdoors, the streets around the cathedral were packed. Foreign residents of this capital said there were many more than last year.

"The scaffolding of houses under construction across the square was sagging under the weight of spectators, and housetops were crowded. Hundreds in the throng crossed themselves as the patriarch passed, scattering incense from a silver censer. Thousands unquestionably pressed against the cathedral gates only in curiosity."

Church of God Missionary Children Go to School in Baltimore by Mail

Children of Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.) missionaries in many parts of the world go to the same school in Baltimore without ever leaving their homes on the mission stations. These children attend the Calvert School, a unique educational institution that for more than 50 years has specialized in providing an education for American children who cannot attend regular schools.

Among the Church of God missionary children attending Calvert is 13-year-old Gloria Searcy at the mission station in Calabar, Ni-

geria, West Africa, with her parents, the Reverend and Mrs. J. Searcy. At the mission in Santiago, Cuba, is eleven-year-old Calvert student Luther Case whose parents are the Reverend and Mrs. H. L. Case. The children have a schoolmate, Beatrice Reesor, daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. James B. Reesor, at Manila, Philippine Islands.

All of these children study at home with the aid of their parents. The school year begins for them with the arrival of a box of books from Baltimore which contains lessons for the entire year and a teaching guide to help their parents. Each month the children prepare a special lesson and send it back to Baltimore where a member of the Calvert faculty reviews it, grades it, and returns it with detailed suggestions for further work.

There are Calvert students in virtually every country in the world, all getting an American education from the "little red school house" in Baltimore.

Holiness Group Told of Need for "Purified" Christians

A leader of the Free Methodist Church told the 89th annual convention of the National Holiness Association that the Christian Church suffers from "powerlessness" because its members are not purified. In his keynote address at Minneapolis, Bishop J. Paul Taylor said that "what a man is will influence others much more than what he says or does." He said that "many, like Simon the sorcerer, seek power for self-display under the pretense of seeking power for Christian service. They need purification first. That opens the channels for the flow of power. Rivers of living water do not issue from dead seas."

Dr. B. H. Pearson of Los Angeles told the delegates that 42 million more persons are born each year than are converted to Christianity. "The early Church had power, not merely ideas," he declared. "It produced results, not programs. God is seeking a Church and people today through whom He can pour a spiritual dynamic capable of transforming life."

(The National Holiness Association draws its inspiration from John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism. Its members do not engage in card playing, gambling, or dancing; neither do they use tobacco or alcoholic beverages. Dr. Myron F. Boyd of Winona Lake, Indiana, is president of the association.)

Japanese Churches Ask Britain to Cancel Bomb Tests

The National Christian Council of Japan has asked the British Council of Churches to urge the British government to cancel its plans to carry out nuclear tests at Christmas Island. The Prime Minister of Japan sent a personal representative to London, also, to appeal to Britain to stop the atomic and hydrogen bomb experiments in Asiatic waters.

"No wonder the Japanese are alarmed," the Bishop of Chichester said. "The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were mere child's play compared with the hydrogen bombs of today." He urged the British Council of Churches to take a strong stand against the bomb tests in Asia, saying, "The whole attitude of millions of Asiatic people toward Christian missions and Christian churches might be affected by what we do." But the British church leaders were divided over the issue. They passed a resolution to deplore the nuclear tests by a vote of 39 to 32.

The representative of Japan's Prime Minister also visited Rome. He was received in audience by the Pope who reminded him of his Easter message last year in which he warned leaders of nations against the "homicidal, suicidal madness" of the atomic arms race and appealed for a "co-existence in truth, justice and love." The Pope said he had not changed his opinion since that time.

U. N. Prayer Room Proves to Be "Sensitive Problem"

To the sensitive problems of diplomacy confronting him in international politics, Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld has added another at the local level. It involves one of his favorite projects, the Meditation Room in the General Assembly Building.

Mr. Hammarskjöld currently is wrestling with the dilemma of insuring tranquility for those who enter this retreat for the purpose for which it was designed—to commune with God. The complicating factor is the surge of thousands of visitors who seek out the Meditation Room on their own and plunge lightheartedly in for a peek and a comment—almost never in a soft voice.

To date the Secretary General has not found the delicate balance by which the distractions can be banished and stillness provided without discouraging freedom of access and of action for the sightseers.

At present the Secretary General is pondering the possibility of reserving certain hours of the day for the prayerful-minded, whose numbers he would like to see multiply.

Toronto Church Raises \$300,000 for Missions

The Peoples Church of Toronto, Canada, which has long been noted for its generous contributions to missions, set a new record last month by giving \$300,000 in cash and pledges. The gifts were received from approximately 2,000 people during the annual missionary convention which lasted a whole month.

The Reverend Oswald J. Smith, pastor of the church, said the record offering will make it possible to support new missionaries in addition to the 350 who are already being supported. A number of nationally-known speakers were heard during the convention, including Ernest E. Manning, Prime Minister of the western Canadian province of Alberta; Robert G. LeTourneau, the industrialist; and the Claus Indian Family. Many foreign missionaries appeared in costume, and colored films of missionary work were shown.

Britain's Anglicans Irked By Roman Catholics

The Roman Catholic Church's current campaign for conversions from among Church of England parishioners has burst out into open and bitter protests. Last month the controversy, which has long been violent at the parish level, drew fire from the Archbishops of both churches.

Dr. Geoffrey Fishers, Archbishop of Canterbury, said at a diocesan conference at Wolverhampton, "There is a lot of direct hostility to the Church (of England) led, I am sorry to say, by the Roman Catholics in this country. The Roman Catholic Church in Britain is waging an open war against the Church of England, unlike its friendly counterparts on the Continent."

Retorting to the Anglican charges, Dr. William Godfrey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster and the highest-ranking Roman Catholic in Britain, said: "Rather than make any statement, I prefer to leave it to the good sense of the British people to judge who is waging open war."



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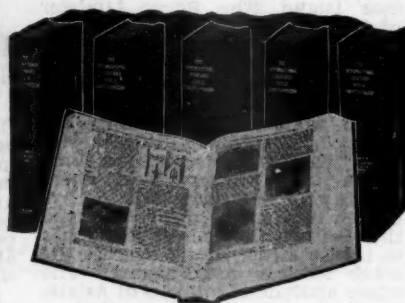
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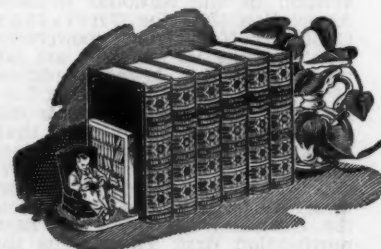
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